

Gospel According to Peter

Among the many spurious works of the early Christians was one entitled the "Gospel According to Peter." The author calls himself explicitly "Simon Peter." This work received very limited and only temporary recognition, but it was certainly written before A. D. 200, and the fragment found twenty-odd years ago, narrates the crucial events connected with the crucifixion and resurrection—and contains important departures from the accepted accounts. The following translation may prove interesting to those who have studied the difficult problems connected with this subject.

MILTON W. HUMPHREYS.

Now, no one of the Jews washed his hands, nor did Herod nor any one of his judges; but when they had washed their hands, then Herod, the King, gave them the soldiers' orders that the Lord be brought forth, saying, "Do unto him what I have commanded you to do." And there was come (thither) Joseph, the friend of Herod and of the Lord, and knowing that they were going to crucify him, he came to Pilate and asked him for the body of the Lord. And Pilate, sending to Herod, sought of him the body, and Herod said, "Brother Pilate, even if no one had asked for him, we were going to bury him (since the Sabbath is coming on) for it is written in the law that the sun shall not set upon a slain man before the first day of unleavened bread, their festival."

And the Lord went running and thrust him on, saying, "Let us hate the Son of God, as we have obtained power over him." And they put a purple robe about him and placed him upon a seat of judgment, saying, "Judge justly, King of Israel." And one of them, bringing a crown of thorns, placed it on the head of the Lord; and others, standing by, spat upon his face, and others smote his cheeks, and still others pricked him with a reed, and some scourged him, saying, "With this honor have we honored the Son of God."

And they brought two criminals and crucified the Lord between them, and He remained silent as not feeling any pain. And when they had nailed the cross they inscribed upon it: "This is the King of Israel." And placing his garments before him, they divided them into four parts and cast lots for them. But one of those criminals reproached him, saying, "We suffer thus because of the evil deeds that we have done, but as for him, who has become the

saviour of mankind, what injury hath he done you?" And becoming angry at him, they gave orders that his limbs should not be broken, that he might die in torture.

It was now midday, and darkness prevailed over all Judea, and the Jews trembled and felt dread lest the sun should set, since He was still alive; for it is written for them that the sun shall not set upon a slain man. And one of them said, "Give him gall with vinegar to drink," and mixing them they gave him to drink. And they fulfilled all and upon their heads completed their sins. And many went about with lamps, thinking that night had fallen, and the Lord cried aloud, saying, "My power, My power, Thou hast forsaken Me," and He was taken up.

And at that very hour the curtain of the temple of Jerusalem was rent in twain. And then they drew the nails from the hands of the Lord and placed him on the ground, and the whole earth was shaken and great terror arose. Then the sun shone out, and it was found to be the ninth hour (3 P. M.). And the Jews rejoiced and gave his body to Joseph that he might bury it, since he had seen what good deeds He had done. And taking the body, he washed him and wrapped him in linen and conveyed him into his private tomb, called the "Garden of Joseph." Then the Jews and elders and priests, seeing what an evil they had done themselves, began to lament and say, "Judgment is near and the end of Jerusalem."

Now, I, with my companions, was grieving, and being wounded to the heart, we concealed ourselves, for we were being sought by them as criminals and as intending to burn the temple. On account of all these facts we fasted and sat mourning and weeping night and day until the Sabbath. The scribes and Pharisees and elders assembled together, and hearing that all the people were murmuring and beating their breasts, saying, "If at His death these great signs appeared, behold how just He is," the elders were terrified and went to Pilate beseeching him and saying, "Give us soldiers that we may guard His tomb for three days, lest haply His disciples may come and steal him, and the people believe that He has risen from the dead, and may do us harm." And Pilate gave them Petronius, the centurion, with soldiers to guard the tomb, and with them came elders and scribes to the grave, and all those that were there along with the centurion and the soldiers rolled a great rock and placed it at the door of the grave and fastened upon it seven seals, and, pitching a tent there, they kept watch. And early as the sabbath drew on, there came a multitude from Jerusalem and the vicinity to see the tomb sealed.

Now in the night in which the Lord's day drew on, while the soldiers kept watch two at a time, there sounded a great voice in the sky, and they saw the heavens open and two men descended thence, shining with brilliant light, and approach the tomb. And that rock, which had been rolled and moved aside, of itself rolled and moved aside, and the tomb was opened and both the young men entered. Those soldiers, therefore, seeing this, aroused the centurion and the elders (for they, too, were there keeping guard), and when they were relating what they had seen, again they saw three men come out of the tomb, and two of them supporting the one and a cross accompanying them, and the head of the two appearing up to the sky, and that of him who was held up reaching above the sky, and they heard a voice from the heavens, saying, "Hail! Thou hast preached obedience unto them that sleep?" And there was heard from the cross, "Yea." And those men began to consider with each other about going and telling these facts to Pilate. And while they were still deliberating, the heavens again were seen to open, and a man to descend and go into the tomb. Seeing all this, the centurion and his men, leaving the tomb, which they were guarding, hastened to Pilate and narrated all that they had seen, being in great distress and saying, "Truly He was the Son of God." Pilate answering, said, "I am clean of the blood of the Son of God; but to you this seemed good."

They all coming forward begged him and urged him to command the centurion and the soldiers to tell nothing that they had seen; for it is better," said they, "for us to incur the greatest sin before God than to fall into the hands of the people of the Jews and be stoned." So Pilate commanded the centurion and the soldiers to tell nothing.

Now, at early dawn on the Lord's day, Mary, Mary Magdalene, a disciple of the Lord (who, fearing because of the Jews who were burning with anger, had not done at the tomb of the Lord what women were wont to do for those that have died and those that are loved by them), taking her female friends with her, came to the tomb in which He had been placed. And they feared that the Jews would see them, and said, "Do not go to the tomb, on which He was crucified, for we are not able to weep and lament, now let us do this at His tomb. But who will roll away for us the great rock that was placed at the door of the tomb, that we may enter and sit by Him and do what is need?" For the rock was large, and we fear that some one will see us; and if we are not able, let us at least cast at the door what we bring for a memorial of Him, and weep and lament until we arrive at home. So counting they found the tomb opened, and approaching they stooped there and saw there sitting in the middle of the tomb a young man, who was fair and clad in a most brilliant robe, who said to them, "Why are you come? Whom do you seek? He that was crucified? He has risen and gone away; and if you do not believe, stoop down, and see the place where He lay; that He is not there, for He has risen and gone to the place from which He was sent." Then the women, seized with fear, fled. Now it was the first day of unleavened bread and a good many people came forth, returning to their homes when the feast had ceased. But we, the twelve apostles of the Lord, wept and grieved, and each one, grieving because of what had come to pass, departed to his house. Thus, I, Simon Peter, and Andrew, my brother, taking our fishing tackle, went away to the sea, and there was with us Levi, the son of Alphaeus, whom the Lord called (there the fragment ends).

(Editor's note.—This translation of the fragment of the "Gospel According to Peter" was made as a gift to The Times-Dispatch by the eminent scholar and professor of Greek at the University of Virginia. It is printed here for the first time.)

Durham Social News

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Durham, N. C., April 1.—One of the most delightful and beautiful of the week was the meeting of the Up-State Club on Thursday afternoon with Mrs. J. B. Duke as hostess. The elegant home, with its handsome and artistic furnishings, was made even more attractive with a wealth of out-flowers and lovely plants. Mrs. A. G. Carr, the president, presided over the meeting. After the current events Mrs. Gilbert White read a paper on "Prince Eugene." The club is studying historical romance, and the meetings have been unusually interesting throughout the winter. At the close of the literary feature, a luncheon was served in the spacious dining-room. Covers were laid with pink roses, and the table was lovely with a color scheme of pink and green, every detail and arrangement carrying out the pretty idea. The club members present were Mrs. E. J. Parrish, Mrs. J. S. Carr, Mrs. M. Jones, Mrs. L. L. Morehead, Mrs. A. G. Carr, Mrs. W. L. Branson, Mrs. E. C. Murray, Mrs. S. W. Morgan, Mrs. Mary Haynes, Mrs. S. T. Morgan, and Mrs. Duke. In the house guest of Mrs. Duke, Mrs. Harris, of New York, were the guests of the club. To the next house, Mrs. J. Crawford Biggs, on Dillard Street, was the hostess of a party on Thursday afternoon, Mrs. Biggs being the hostess

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The Mosby Store is a quality store, but not a high price store.

100 Easter Bargains in Women's New Suits

\$18 Suits Now \$20 Suits Now \$25 Suits Now \$30 Suits Now \$39.75 and \$45 Suits Now
\$12.98 \$15.00 \$19.75 \$25.00 \$33.75

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\$3.98

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Trimmed with embroidery and lace. The regular price is 59c.

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Good quality muslin, cut very full, with a ruffle of embroidery and cluster tucks. Special, 59c.

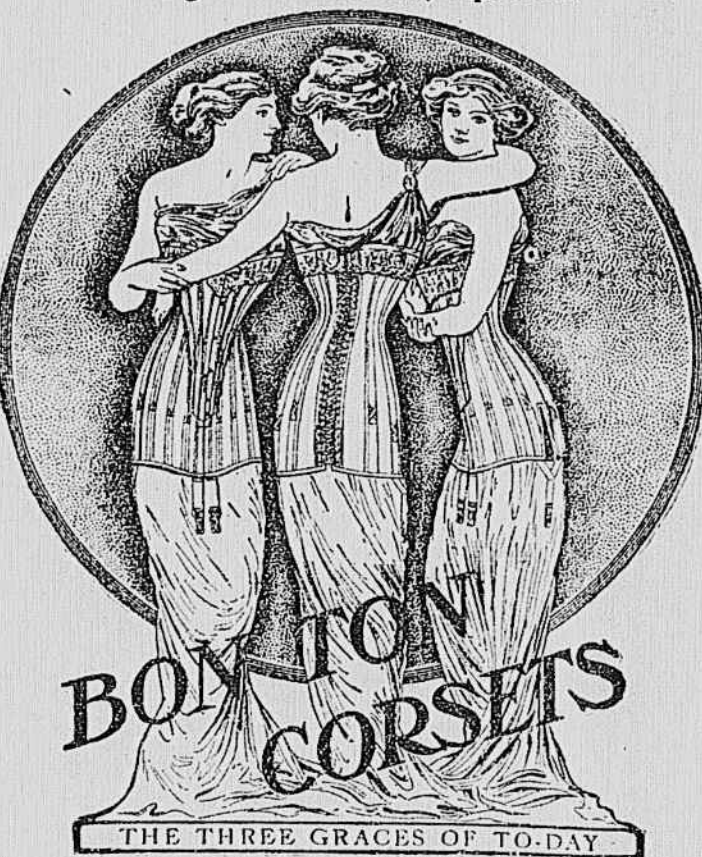
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Bon Tons \$3.00 to \$10.00
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This morning we're mentioning just a few of the things that have gained us this reputation.

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